

LISA HIGGINBOTHAM

NIH-Cambridge Scholar 2006

Degrees: Brigham Young University, B.S., Molecular Biology and (minor) Chemistry, 2006

Research Interests: Stem Cell Research, Breast Cancer



Lisa Higginbotham graduated with Honors and a near perfect grade-point average from Brigham Young University in 2006. Her interest in science started early as a student in a special four year high school curriculum at the Monterey Academy of Oceanographic Science. This culminated in a senior internship at Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska in which she worked with marine biologists carrying out population studies of gumboot chitons, a large species of marine mollusk that is part of the diet of local Tlingit Natives. While at BYU, she carried out research in several contexts in microbiology and later in genetically engineered experimental mice. Under the direction of Dr. Robert Seegmiller, she worked to use transgenics to cure a mouse harboring a specific mutation in the *Col2a1* collagen gene--a model for the human genetic disorder chondrodysplasia. Also, she did a brief research stint in the summer of 2004 as a SURE research fellow at Emory University studying host-pathogen interactions between intestinal epithelial cells and the *Salmonella* bacterium. In addition to her academic pursuits, Lisa has carried out volunteer work in mentoring disadvantaged youth in her community and at a women's relief society. In her free time, Lisa enjoys hiking and tennis. As a doctoral student, Lisa is interested in pursuing stem cell research in the hopes of building a bridge from laboratory research to public understanding and, more importantly, to public health and well-being.